

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application are respectfully requested. Claims 9, 10, 19, 25 and 28-35 are currently pending. Claims 1-8, 11-18, 20-24 and 26-27 are cancelled. Claims 28-35 are new.

Claims 9, 10, 19 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakai et al. (Japanese Patent Number 04-37884) in view of Johnson (U.S. Patent Number 5,043,761). Prior to discussing this ground of rejection in detail, a brief summary of a modified transfer roll system and method for electrophotographic printing according to exemplary embodiments of the present invention is provided below to highlight some of the advantageous characteristics thereof.

According to exemplary embodiments of the present invention, a photoconductor for collecting a photostatic charge is moved in a first direction. Using a selected voltage from a power source, the photoconductor is then charged with the photostatic charge. Next, selected portions of the charge applied to the photoconductor, corresponding to an image to be printed on the printing media, are activated. A development roller is rotated adjacent to and in tandem with the photoconductor but in a third direction generally opposite to that of the first. Toner is, in turn, transferred from the development roller to the photoconductor, the toner photostatically adhering to the photoconductor in a form corresponding to the image to be printed. Next, a carriage with a plurality of transfer rollers rotatably mounted thereto is translated so as to position at least one of the rollers in contact with the photoconductor. The point of

contact defines a selected point for transferring the toner image from the photoconductor to a first surface of the printing media. In addition, each roller has an effective length different than that of the other rollers so as to enable overhanging edges of printing media having a selected width, such overhanging edges providing a setback from the paper edges and clearance from toner on the photoconductor. The printing media is then transported in tandem with and to a point between the photoconductor and the transfer roller. Finally, toner on the photoconductor is attracted toward the transfer roller so as to effect transfer of the toner image from the photoconductor to the printing media first surface.

As stated in the Official Action:

“Sakai et al disclose a photoconductive roller 1 for retaining toner in the form of the image on a first surface of printing media 2; a plurality of transfer rollers 31 arranged about a rotatable carrousel 32 (Fig. 2), each roller being rotatably mounted to the carrousel, such that at least one of the rollers is positionable for operative engagement with the photoconductive roller at a selected transfer point (Fig. 2), such engagement effecting transfer of the toner image from the photoconductive roller to the first surface of the printing media (Fig. 2), each roller having an effective length different than that of the other rollers so as to enable overhanging edges of printing media having a selected width, such overhanging edges providing a setback from the paper edges and clearance from toner on the photoconductive roller (Fig. 1 & Fig. 3);”

However, Applicant respectfully submits that the rotatable carrousel of Sakai et al. is different from the “plurality of transfer rollers arranged along a translatable carriage” as described, among other things, in Applicant’s claim 9 combination because the rotatable carrousel of Sakai does not perform a “selected translation” of Applicant’s translatable carriage. In this regard, see Fig. 9 of the present application wherein

transfer rollers 38a, 38b and 38c move in a linear fashion depending upon which transfer roller needs to be in contact with photoconductive roller 12. Similar arguments apply to independent claims 10, 19 and 25.

Moreover, the Johnson patent cannot remedy the afore-described deficiency of Sakai et al., since it also does not teach or suggest a "selected translation" of Applicant's translatable carriage.


Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 9, 10, 19 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Sakai et al. (Japanese Patent Number 04-37884) in view of Johnson (U.S. Patent Number 5,043,761) are respectfully requested.

New claims 28-35 have been added to provide additional claim coverage for the present invention. More specifically, claim 28 describes a system wherein selected translation of the translatable carriage occurs through linear motion of the translatable carriage relative to the photoconductive roller. Claim 29 describes wherein the translatable carriage includes at least three transfer rollers of different lengths disposed on the translatable carriage in an order based on the different lengths. It is respectfully submitted that the newly submitted claims are also patentably distinguishable from the documents of record.

All of the objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this response or the application in general, she or he is invited to contact the undersigned at (540) 361-1863.

Respectfully submitted,

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